(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Supernova explosion in the Galaxy

*229. SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent celestial phenomenon of Suponerva explosion in the galaxy;

(b) whether any studies have been carried out on this Supernova; if so, what information has been gathered so far from this happening; and

(c) whether the Department of Space has collaborated with international astronomers or agencies to receive data about the Supernova and the Blackhole?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recent supernova detected by astronomers is not within our galaxy but is in the nearby extra galactic cloud known as Large Magellanic cloud. Studies are being carried out about this supernova at the Vainu Bappu Observatory at Kavalur. The information gathered so far is about changes of brightness and spectra of light from the supernova.

(c) Scientific information about this is being freely exchanged by Indian Institute of Astrophysics with international astronomers and agencies through the International Astronomical Union.

Cigarette factories closed due to increased levies

*231. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of factories manufacturing cigarettes have recently been closed down due to the increased levy on the cigarettes, throwing a large number of workers out of their jobs;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government to remove the sufferings of the unemployed workers of these cigarette factories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) No, Sir, Excise dut yon cigarettes was increased in this year's budget. Simultaneously the basis of the Levy was changed from printed retail prices to the length of the cigarettes. To avoid any dislocation in the production and clearance of cigarettes some of the procedural requirements relating to the revised scheme of levy were temporarily relaxed at the time of announcement of the budget and also thereafter, on the basis of representations from the cigarette industry received after the budget. The cigarette manufacturers had temporarily suspended their clearance immediately after the budget to adjust to the new scheme of levy. The procedural relaxations normalised clearance of cigarettes.

(c) In view of (a) and (b) above, does not arise.

शिक्षित बेरोजगारों को ऋण

*232. **श्री सुनील कुमार पट्टनायक :** क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि जो व्यक्ति बेरोजगार हैं या बेरोजगार स्नातक हैं, उन्हें बैंकों द्वारा ऋण दिया जा रहा है ;

(ख) क्या इस प्रकार दिये जा रहे ऋणों का विज्ञापनों द्वारा प्रचार करने का कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जनार्दन पुजारी) : (क) से (ग) सम्भवतः माननीय सदस्य का आशय शिक्षित बेरोजगार युवकों को रोजगार देने की उस योजना से है जो 1983-84 में शुरु की गई थी। राज्य सरकारों-संघ राज्य क्षेत्र के प्रशासनों को सम्बोधित मार्ग निर्देशों में सरकार ने उनसे यह कहा है कि उनके उद्योग विभाग तथा जिला उद्योग केन्द्र को स्थानीय समाचार पत्रों और अन्य सम्बद्ध एजेंसियों के द्वारा इस योजना का व्यापक प्रचार करना चाहिए। चूंकि इस योजना के अन्तर्गत स्थानीय उद्यमियों को छोटे आकार के धंधे शुरू करने होते हैं, इसलिए इस योजना का जिला अथवा राज्य स्तरीय एजेंसियों द्वारा प्रचार किया जाना अधिक उपयुक्त होगा। इस समय विज्ञापनों के जरिए इस योजना का प्रचार करने का कोई नया प्रस्ताव केन्द्रीय सरकार के विचाराधीन नहीं है।

*253. *[Transferred to the 4th May, 1987.]*

Abolition of freight equalisation scheme

*234. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some industries, including that of foundry, have recently demanded the abolition of freight equalisation scheme in phases; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to consider the demand at the next meeting of the NDC, as and when it is proposed to be held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to refer the matter of freight equalisation for steel to the National Development Council.

Development of Agro based industries

*235. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to encourage and develop the Agro based industries;

(b) the reasons for which Chapters 20 and 21 of excise are not covered by MODVAT; and

(c) what help does Government propose to give this industry to step up exports, like easing the procedure for imports against export, timely refund of draw backs etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Chapters 20 and 21 of the Central Excise Tariff are covered under the MODVAT Scheme.

(c) The advance licensing scheme and Import-Export Pass-Book Scheme for imports against exports, as applycable to all industries including agro-based industries, have been liberalised recently and now duty-free imports of all inputs required for manufacture of goods for exports are allowed as against specified items permitted prior to such liberalisation. The procedure for payment of drawback also has been liberalised and now drawback claims are processed more or less within 24 hours of presentation and drawback amounts due to the exporter are consolidated in the ledger maintained for the purpose and transferred to the exporter's account on a fortnightly basis.